



Missouri Department of Higher Education

*Building Missouri's future...
by degrees®*





A+ Program Update

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Agenda

- Transition
- Budget
- Early Policy Work
- Work Group
- Proposed Policies
- Next Steps

Transition

- Financial Incentive Component (Reimbursement)
 - Transferred to MDHE by Executive Order 10-16
 - Effective August 28, 2010
- School Improvement/Designation Component Remains at DESE

Budget

- 2010-2011
 - \$25.3 million – estimate for “full” funding
 - \$22 million initially appropriated
 - \$3.5 supplemental appropriation
- 2011-2012
 - \$30 million – Governor’s recommendation
 - \$22 million core appropriation
 - \$8 million new funds appropriated
- Both require legislative approval/action

Early Policy Work

- Concerns About Existing DESE and Proposed MDHE Regulations Raised in Fall 2010
 - Timing of implementation
 - Potential for conflicting requirements
 - Process for consideration of needed changes
- Results
 - CBHE delayed adoption of proposed rule
 - Use of existing DESE rule for AY 2010-2011
 - Work group established by Governor to recommend program improvements/changes

Work Group Goals

- Re-examination/alignment of student eligibility in light of state goals
 - Maintain current program strengths
 - Promote better student preparation
 - Focus on college success
 - Use state funds efficiently/effectively

Work Group Recommendations

- Continuation of existing high school requirements
 - Attendance
 - 2.5 GPA
 - Citizenship
 - 50 hours of tutoring/mentoring
 - Expanded to include job shadowing

Work Group Recommendations

- No reimbursement for courses that aren't completed
 - Implications for need to maintain full-time enrollment, which is still required

Work Group Recommendations

- Establishment of cap on number of reimbursable hours
 - Alternative to not reimbursing remedial courses
 - Completion of 105% of hours required for program

Work Group Recommendations

- Establishment of cap on amount of reimbursement
 - Standard tuition and fees per credit hour at Linn State Technical College (\$179/SCH)
 - Administrative rule to provide for waiver of cap for high need program with costs leading to higher tuition burden

Work Group Recommendations

- Change to award priority
 - Tuition and fees (previously separated)
 - Up to 50% of book costs
 - By EFC, with lowest EFC receiving full tuition and fees first, if funds not sufficient to reimburse full tuition and fees

Work Group Recommendations

- Recipients required to pass Algebra I EOC exam
 - Key indicator of college success
 - Consistent with program goal of rigorous coursework

Work Group Recommendations

- Administrative rule to clearly specify ineligibility at four-year institutions
 - Exception for specified programs at Missouri Western State University to continue, but to be phased out

Work Group Recommendations

- Administrative rule to clearly specify Ranken Technical College's participation
 - Only private institution in A+
 - Reimbursement capped at St. Louis Community College's in-district rate for in-district students & out-of-district rate for out-of-district students

MDHE Policy Development

- Administrative rule drafted based on input from a wide variety of sources:
 - Prior DESE A+ program requirements
 - Requirements of other MDHE programs
 - A+ Work Group
 - CBHE's State Student Financial Aid Committee
 - MCCA A+ coordinators
 - Institutional financial aid personnel

Proposed Policies Development

- Draft rule posted to MDHE's website in early January for comment
- Comments received concerned:
 - Partnerships
 - Funding shortfalls
 - Algebra I EOC
 - Cap on number of hours reimbursed
 - Reimbursement of repeat coursework
 - Reimbursement of dropped coursework
 - Participation by private institutions

Policy Highlights

- Workgroup recommendations incorporated into administrative rule
 - Algebra I EOC
 - Effective for senior class of 2015
 - Completion of 12 hours with GPA of 2.5 in first semester acceptable substitute for Algebra I EOC
 - Receipt of A+ until earliest of:
 - 48 months after completion of high school coursework
 - Completion of 105% of hours required for program
 - Receipt of an associate's degree

Policy Highlights

- Work Group Recommendations in Rule (cont'd)
 - Reimbursable Coursework
 - Completed coursework, including remedial coursework for which a standard grade is assigned.
 - Coursework part of a higher level certificate or degree taken after receipt of a certificate in a related field.
 - Not Reimbursable
 - Repeat coursework
 - Reimbursement for courses where a standard grade wasn't assigned deducted from the next award

Policy Highlights

- Work Group Recommendations in Rule (cont'd)
 - If funds are insufficient for full reimbursement :
 1. Number of hours eligible for reimbursement reduced
 2. Other measures determined by the department with input from interested parties

Policy Highlights

- Work Group Recommendations in Rule (cont'd)
 - Hourly tuition rate capped at Linn State Technical College's rate
 - Waiver may be possible for high need programs
 - Federal credit to clock hour conversion will apply

Policy Highlights

- Exceptions to full-time enrollment identified
 - All available hours
 - Internships
 - Required prerequisite coursework
- Good faith effort defined
 - FAFSA completion
 - Dependent student's financial information only, if parents refuse
 - FAFSA Forecaster for students attending non-Title IV institutions

Policy Highlights

- Disbursement method for clock-hour programs addressed
- Deferment of eligibility for military service allowed

Next Steps

- CBHE adoption of administrative rule
- Formal rulemaking process begins
- Additional opportunity to provide input during 30-day public comment period
- Rule effective approximately 6 months after initial filing

QUESTIONS?

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